

ANTHONY GONZALEZ
16TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3516

May 30, 2019

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The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop,

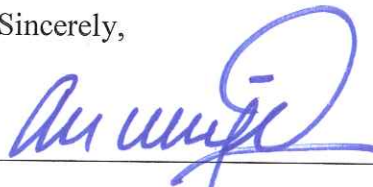
I write you to urge the consideration and passage out of Committee of H.R. 1225, the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act. This bill has the bipartisan support of 228 co-sponsors in the House, 37 co-sponsors in the Senate, and the Trump Administration. The widespread support reflects Congress's recognition of H.R. 1225's importance, and the gravity of the backlog problem our national parks are facing across the country.

The deferred maintenance backlog should be taken seriously. Federal land management agencies are struggling to keep up with growing maintenance needs to address issues that are affecting the safety and quality of park visits. The Department of the Interior's total deferred maintenance backlog alone currently stands at \$16 billion. In my home state of Ohio, the backlog is roughly \$114 million. Cuyahoga Valley National Park, just outside my district, has a backlog of \$51,863,771.

H.R. 1225 would help to address the backlog by providing a 5 year down payment to address the most urgent maintenance backlog needs. It is not smart fiscal policy to let government resources like our national parks continue to decay. Letting this problem grow over time will ultimately cost taxpayers more as problems are exacerbated.

It is for these reasons I request the Natural Resources Committee consider H.R. 1225 this Congress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 225-3876.

Sincerely,



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress